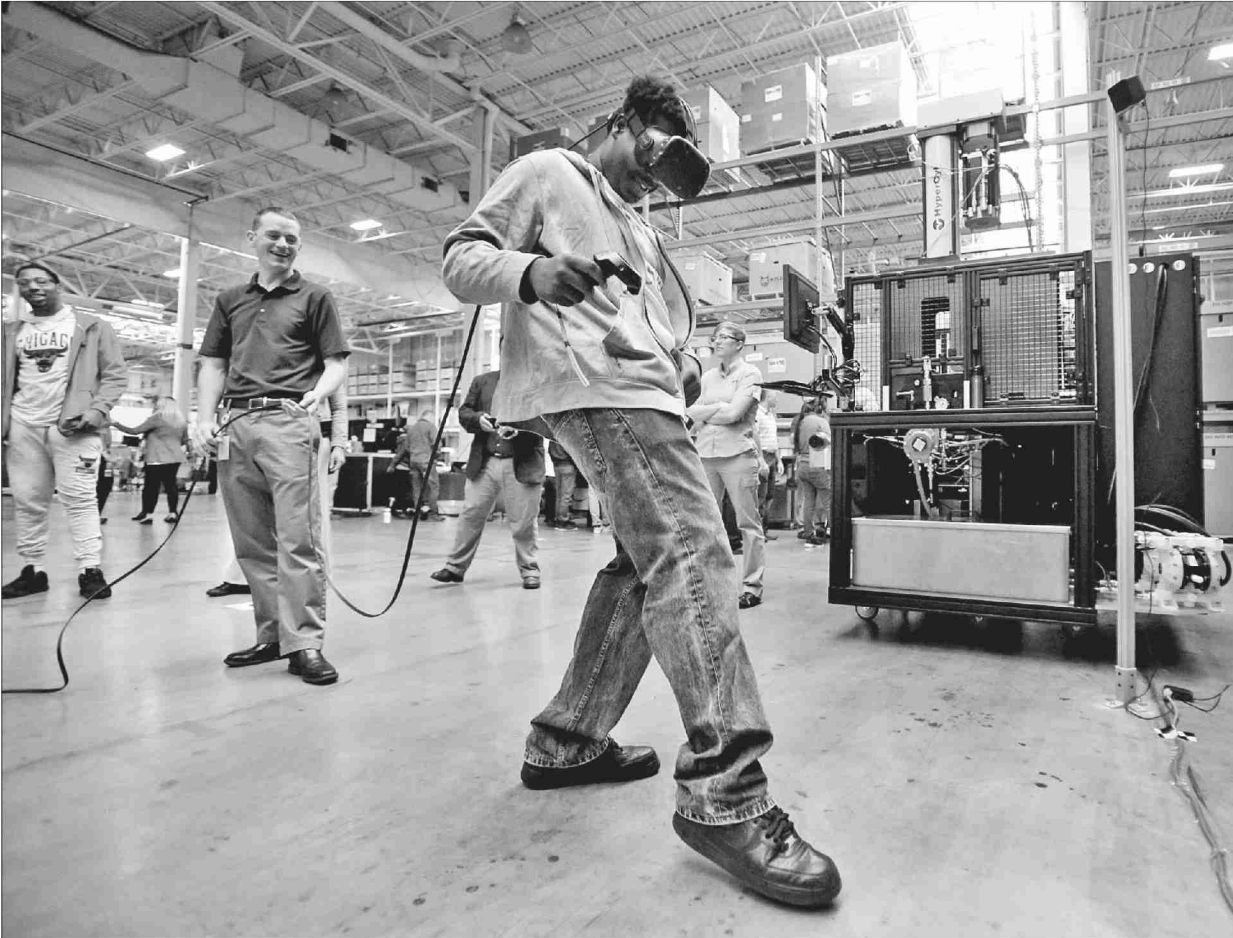
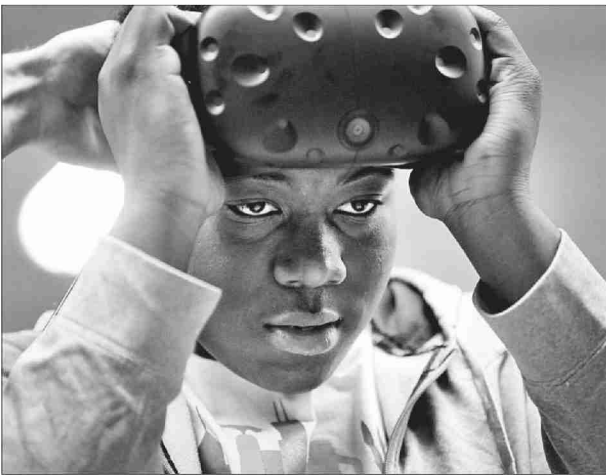


Stepping toward career opportunities



Photos by DAVID JOLES • djoles@startribune.com



Graco Inc. hosted its first Manufacturing Day at its George Aristides Riverside Center in Minneapolis for local high school students. Above and at left, 17-year-old Marquan Vance, a student at Patrick Henry High, got into the action, donning virtual reality goggles and taking careful steps as part of a virtual reality test station. The nationwide event was established to try to inspire future generations to learn about manufacturing and show them the economic benefits of the hands-on jobs. At Graco, about 150 high school students participated, including students in the Sundance Family Foundation Youth Social Entrepreneurship Program involving at-risk youth between ages 16 to 23. The 90-minute tour offered a tour of the Minneapolis-based company, demonstrations and a career fair with colleges and Graco employees.

